

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/729,908

Examiner

Theresa Trieu

Applicant(s)

KIMURA ET AL.

Art Unit

3748

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on Aug. 22, 2005 and Aug. 5, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/983,017.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

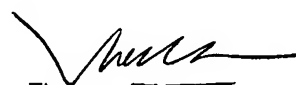
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date September 2, 2005.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Theresa Trieu
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 3748

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

This Office Action is responsive to the applicants' amendment filed on August 22, 2005 and August 5, 2005

Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1, 3 and 4 have been canceled as per applicants' request. Claim 2 remains under consideration in this office action.

Applicants' cooperation in correcting the informalities in the specification is appreciated.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Mark H. Neblett (Reg. No. 42,028) on September 2, 2005. During telephone conversation with Mr. Neblett, an agreement was reached to amend Claim 2. The application has been amended as follows:

Claims

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended):

-- A scroll fluid machine comprising:

a multi-stage compression section in which the a fluid compressed in a preceding stage compression section is further compressed in a succeeding stage compression section;

a lap groove formed by spiral laps of both a stationary scroll and a revolving scroll, said laps spiraling from the vicinity of a discharge port of the compressed fluid of

a final stage compression space ~~of the preceding stage compression section~~ to a fluid take-in side of an initial stage compression space ~~of the succeeding stage compression section~~, in a tip of the lap being formed a tip seal ~~grove~~ groove to receive a seal element, and a rand being formed between the discharge port of said preceding stage compression section and the suction port of the succeeding stage compression section;

an intermediate seal element received in the an intermediate groove formed on the surface of said rand which faces the end plate of the mating scroll for preventing the leakage of the compressed fluid from said succeeding stage compression section to said discharge port opening side of said preceding stage compression section, said seal element including,

a first seal element which extends spirally from the fluid take-in side of said preceding stage compression section side to the final discharge port side of said succeeding stage compression section and partitions said discharge port opening and said suction port opening at said rand surface in the course of its extension, and

a second seal element, an end of which contacts the side face of said first seal element at the side opposite to said discharge port opening in the vicinity of said discharge port opening and which extends from the vicinity of said discharge port opening to the vicinity of said discharge port opening, surrounding said succeeding stage compression section to contact the side face of said first seal element at the side opposite to said suction port opening. --

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art fails to disclose or render obvious the claimed combination including a first seal element extending spirally from the fluid take-in side of said preceding stage compression section side to the final discharge port side of said succeeding stage compression section and partitions said discharge port opening and said suction port opening at said rand surface in the course of its extension and a second seal element having an end contacting the side face of the first seal element at the side opposite to the discharge port, encircling the succeeding stage compression section to contact the side face of the first seal element at the side opposite to the suction port opening.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Communication


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Theresa Trieu whose telephone number is 571-272-4868. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30am- 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas E. Denion can be reached on 571-272-4859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3748

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TT
September 2, 2005



Theresa Trieu
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3748